(b) if so, the number of bids received so far;

(c) whether Government would entertain bidding round the year;

(d) whether Government propose to go in for the international pattern in oil exploration to invite foreign investment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Foreign companies, either on their own or in consortium, have put in 20 bids in the Fourth Round of Bidding for exploration, 4 bids in the Fifth Round of Bidding for exploration and 51 bids for the development of the medium sized and small sized fields offered in August, 1992.

(c) to (e) There is no specific international pattern for inviting private investment in the oil sector. The two most frequently used mechanisms for inviting foreign investment in oil exploration are through bidding rounds at specified intervals and by direct negotiations with companies.

To attact foreign investment in oil exploration, Government is inviting bids under the continuous round the year bidding scheme for exploration in specified blocks.

Approval of award of contract in Cauvery Basis

1770. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI GOVINDRAO RAMARAO ADIK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved the award of exploration-cum-development contract for Block CY-QS-90/1 in the Cauvery offshore basin to consortium comprising certain Indian and foreign companies;

(b) whether it also a fact that Government have approved the award of contracts for six small size fields offered for development to private parties; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the awards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The fields are (i) Bakrol (ii) Lohar (iii) Bhandut (iv) Cambay (v) Matar (vi) Sabarmati. The fields would be developed by these parties under production-sharing contracts to be signed by them with the Government of India.

Panipat Refinery

1771. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision about the financial and technological tie up for the construction of Panipat Refinery has been arrived at, if so, what are the details thereof and by when;

(b) whether Government have proposed the construction of a parallel Highway between Delhi Panipat and Panipat-Chandigarh and further to Punjab as a part of this Refinery as a modern Highway will be required for quick transport of the products to and from the Refinery to outstations;

(c) whether adequate provisions have been made in the projects to contain the pollution of air/water as the Refinery is located in a densely populated area which is one of the richest area in the field of agriculture; and

(d) what are the remedial measures Government propose to take for the effects of refinery with respect to pollution and State capital to karnal to be established in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND